## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.  (Currently amended)  A computer-implemented method for improving service accounting in a network, the method comprising the steps of:
    in response to a first Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting (AAA) server
    receiving a request to authorize a client,
    said first server obtaining an accounting record for the client,
    said first server authorizing said client based on said accounting record, and
    said first server sending a Remote Authentication Dial In User Service protocol
    (RADIUS) access accept message that includes at least a portion of the
    accounting record within the access accept message;
    causing at least a portion the accounting record to be logged;
    a second AAA server receiving a RADIUS start session message that includes at least a
    portion the accounting record within the start session message.

2.  (Previously Presented)  A computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising the step of obtaining the accounting record for the client from an external resource.

3.  (Previously presented)  A computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 2, further comprising the step of obtaining the accounting record for the client from a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol directory.

4.  (Previously Presented)  A computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the client is selected from the group consisting of a wireless network client, a wired network client, and a dial up client.

5.  (Currently amended)  A computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of causing to be logged comprises causing at least a portion of the accounting record to be logged on a dedicated logging device.

6. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of causing to be logged comprises causing ~~at least a portion of~~ the accounting record to be logged on an Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting server.

7. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of causing to be logged comprises causing ~~at least a portion of~~ the accounting record to be logged on a network device.

8. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of causing to be logged comprises causing ~~at least a portion of~~ the accounting record to be logged with a session start log entry.

9. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of causing to be logged comprises causing ~~at least a portion of~~ the accounting record to be logged with a session stop log entry.

10. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the accounting record comprises a handle to a second accounting record.

11. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 10, further comprising the steps of:
    retrieving the second accounting record using the handle to the second accounting record; and
    causing ~~at least a portion of~~ the second accounting record to be logged.

12. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of said first server sending ~~at least a portion of~~ the accounting record further comprises said first server sending data of said portion as a plurality of attribute-value pairs in said access accept message.

13-17. (Canceled)

18.  (Currently amended)  A computer-readable storage medium storing instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform:

in response to a first Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting (AAA) server

receiving a request to authorize a client,

said first server obtaining an accounting record for the client,

said first server authorizing said client based on said accounting record, and

said first server sending a Remote Authentication Dial In User Service protocol (RADIUS) access accept message that includes ~~at least a portion of~~ the accounting record within the access accept message;

causing ~~at least a portion~~ the accounting record to be logged;

a second AAA server receiving a RADIUS start session message that includes ~~at least a portion~~ the accounting record within the start session message.

19.  (Previously Presented)  A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 18 and storing instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform:

obtaining the accounting record for the client from an external resource.

20.  (Previously Presented)  A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 19 and storing instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform:

obtaining the accounting record for the client from a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol directory.

21.  (Previously Presented)  A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 18, wherein the client is selected from the group consisting of a wireless network client, a wired network client, and a dial up client.

22.  (Currently amended)  A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 18, wherein the instructions for causing to be logged comprise instructions for causing ~~at least a portion of~~ the accounting record to be logged on a dedicated logging device.

23. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 18, wherein the instructions for causing to be logged comprise instructions for causing ~~at least a portion of~~ the accounting record to be logged on an Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting server.

24. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 18, wherein the instructions for causing to be logged comprise instructions for causing ~~at least a portion of~~ the accounting record to be logged on a network device.

25. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 18, wherein the instructions for causing to be logged comprise instructions for causing ~~at least a portion of~~ the accounting record to be logged with a session start log entry.

26. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 18, wherein the instructions for causing to be logged comprise instructions for causing ~~at least a portion of~~ the accounting record to be logged with a session stop log entry.

27. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 18, wherein the accounting record comprises a handle to a second accounting record.

28. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 27 and storing instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform:

retrieving the second accounting record using the handle to the second accounting record; and

causing ~~at least a portion of~~ the second accounting record to be logged.

29. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 18, wherein the instructions for said first server sending ~~at least a portion of~~ the accounting record further comprise instructions for said first server sending data of said portion as a plurality of attribute-value pairs in said access accept message.

30-36. (Canceled)

37.     (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said first server and said second server are the same Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting (AAA) server.

38.     (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said first server and said second server are different load balanced Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting servers that are both configured to implement the Remote Authentication Dial In User Service protocol (RADIUS) network protocol.

39.     (Canceled)

40.     (Canceled)

41.     (Previously Presented)  A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 18, wherein said first server and said second server are the same Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting (AAA) server.

42.     (Previously Presented)  A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 18, wherein said first server and said second server are different load balanced Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting servers that are both configured to implement the Remote Authentication Dial In User Service protocol (RADIUS) network protocol.

43.     (Canceled)  The computer-implemented method of Claim 1, wherein the step of said first server sending a Remote Authentication Dial In User Service protocol (RADIUS) access accept message that includes at least a portion of the accounting record further comprises sending the portion in RADIUS Class Attributes or RADIUS Vendor Specific Attributes.

44.     (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 10, wherein the handle to the second accounting record comprises an identifier of the second accounting

record that uniquely identifies the second accounting record from among a plurality of accounting records.

45. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 44, wherein the identifier of the second accounting record comprises one or more of an internet protocol address associated with the client, an internet protocol address associated with the first or second Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting (AAA) server, or a random string.

46. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 18, wherein the instructions for said first server sending a Remote Authentication Dial In User Service protocol (RADIUS) access accept message that includes at least a portion of the accounting record further comprise instructions for said first server sending the portion in RADIUS Class Attributes or RADIUS Vendor Specific Attributes.

47. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 27, wherein the handle to the second accounting record comprises an identifier of the second accounting record that uniquely identifies the second accounting record from among a plurality of accounting records.

48. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 47, wherein the identifier of the second accounting record comprises one or more of an internet protocol address associated with the client, an internet protocol address associated with the first or second Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting (AAA) server, or a random string.